

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 01255 141208Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 SSM-03 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00
PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
DODE-00 PRS-01 /084 W
-----141355Z 032872 /46

R 141048Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7285
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T JIDDA 1255

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SA, EG
SUBJECT: SAUDI ASSESSMENT OF EGYPT

REF: (A) JIDDA 1027 (B) CAIRO 2572

1. INITIAL SAUDI REACTIONS TO RIOTS REFLECTED SURPRISE
LACED WITH SOME SKEPTICISM. THE MORNING NEWS OF RIOTS
BROKE IN RIYADH, FIRST REACTION TO EMBOFF OF HIGH-RANKING
MINFIN OFFICIAL WHO OVERSEES LARGE PART OF SAG AID TO EGYPT
WAS SUSPICION THAT SADAT MIGHT HAVE STAGE-MANAGED RIOTS
TO IMPRESS HIS CREDITORS. SAUDI SURPRISE AND DISTRUST SOON
MATURED INTO CONCERN AND EVEN WORRY ABOUT SADAT'S APPARENT
WEAKNESS. SAUDIS CONSIDER SADAT LYNCHPIN OF REGION'S SLOW
SWING TOWARD MODERNATION AND ESSENTIAL TO ANY FINAL MIDDLE

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EAST SETTLEMENT. THEY MAY NOW FEEL THAT THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY
BEEN TAKING HIM A BIT TOO MUCH FOR GRANTED.

2. SOME NEW SAG MOVES TO HELP SADAT MAY BE IN THE OFFING.
AFTER HIS RECENT TRIP TO CAIRO, MINFIN ABA AL KHAYL ASKED
EMBASSY FOR DETAILS OF US AID TO EGYPT. IN ADDITION,
SAUDIS HAVE LET US KNOW INFORMALLY THAT THEY ARE CONSID-

ERING AN APPROACH TO USG, FRG AND JAPAN TO FORM CONSORTIUM
WITH SAG AND GULF STATES TO ORGANIZE ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT
(REF A). SAG UNILATERAL AID MAY INCREASE, BUT EMBASSY
HAS NO CONCRETE INFORMATION ON THIS SCORE.

3. THOUGH SAG PUBLICLY ACCEPTS OFFICIAL GOE EXPLANATION
THAT COMMUNISTS WERE BEHIND DEMONSTRATIONS, SAG OFFICIALS
PRIVATELY TEND TO ADMIT SOME COMMUNIST ROLE POSSIBLE, BUT
ONLY AS SPARK TO TINDER ALREADY FORMED BY EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC
CONDITIONS.
PORTER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JIDDA01255
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770051-1120
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770245/aaaabnqv.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6dfb6dc7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 JIDDA 1027, 77 CAIRO 2572
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3330292
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAUDI ASSESSMENT OF EGYPT
TAGS: PFOR, SA, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6dfb6dc7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009